



DENTAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
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Examination Committee Meeting
January 27, 2005
San Diego, CA

Minutes

Members Present:

George SooHoo, DDS, Chair
Newton Gordon, DDS
Alan Kaye, DDS
Chester Yokoyama, DDS

Member Absent:

LaDonna Drury-Klein, RDA

Staff Present:

Cynthia Gatlin, Executive Officer
Gladys Mitchell, Staff Manager
La Rita Abdul-Rahman, Secretary
Norine Marks, Legal Counsel
LaVonne Powell, Legal Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 1:45pm. All members of the committee except for Ms. Klein were present and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM 9.1 - The minutes of the November 5, 2004 were approved with the following amendments:

14.7 – states that Ms. Mitchell will be working with Legal on establishing a ~~Parental Consent Policy~~. Ms. Marks clarified that the issue is much broader than developing a parental consent form. The policy is for the Use of Minor Patients for Exams.

It was m/s/c (Kaye/Gordon).

AGENDA ITEM 9.2 – Proposed Infection Control Policy for Exams

Ms. La Donna Drury-Klein requested this agenda item be tabled until the March 2005 meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9.3 – Discussion on Use of Minor Patients

This issue was tabled until the March 2005 meeting in order to allow staff to discuss with the board's new legal counsel.

AGENDA ITEM 9.4 – Dental Exam Statistics

The Pass/Fail Statistics for the November 13th and 14th, 2004 Restorative Technique Exam were provided as information only.

AGENDA ITEM 9.5 – Auxiliary Exam Statistics

The historical examination statistics for each of the auxiliary examination programs were provided as information only.

Dr. Gordon requested the Committee on Dental Auxiliaries (COMDA) provide the committee with a report as to the underline reasons for the low pass rates. Ms. Karen Wyant, Executive Officer of COMDA, informed the committee that a report was submitted last year stating some of the underline reasons for the failure rate, but to come up with a definitive reason would be very difficult. COMDA has ensured that their exams are valid, the examiners are extremely well trained, and that the exams are consistent and fair.

Ms. JoAnn Galliano expressed her concern with Dr. Gordon's request. She stated that the dental exam statistics are just as low as the auxiliaries and that the committee should be looking at the reason for low pass rates across the board and not just for auxiliaries.

Ms. Cathy Mudge representing the California Dental Association (CDA) believes Dr. Gordon asked a fair question. The passage rate for dental exams and the hygienists exam have gone up. Looking at the RDA's pass rate, you have to ask some simple questions, i.e., why is it that only half of the candidates are passing exam. Is it the quality of the candidates? Is it the quality of the exam? Or is it something else. We would like to see as many RDAs pass the exam as possible.

AGENDA ITEM 9.6 – Review of Western Regional Examination Board (WREB) Regulation

Ms. Cynthia Gatlin informed the committee of the status of the Occupational Analysis that is being conducted by the Office of Examination Resources (OER) as part of SB 1865. To date, OER has conducted approximately 12 interviews with dentists practicing in CA. The OER anticipates conducting a total of 20 interviews by the end of January. The next phase is to conduct workshop-style meetings to review the background information collected. The OER is presently recruiting subject matter experts (licensed dentists) to participate in these workshops.

Mr. Richard Decuir explained the fee estimates for WREB candidates to apply for CA Dental License and the CA Law and Ethics exam.

It was m/s/c (Gordon/Kaye) to set for regulatory hearing.

Public Comments were given by Ms. JoAnn Galliano of CDHA, Ms. Cathy Mudge of CDA, Dr. Bonnie Morehead, Dr. Earl Johnson, and Ms. Gladys Mitchell.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.